

Claims

We claim:

1. A price verification method, comprising:

providing a price verification device having a barcode scanner and an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) reader;

scanning a barcode corresponding to an item as printed on a label associated with the item using the barcode scanner;

reading a price for the item as printed on the label using the OCR reader;

storing the price for the item within the price verification device; and

comparing the stored price to a register-based price for the item as determined by a register to verify an accuracy of the stored price.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the price verification device further comprises a key pad, and wherein the method further comprises:

inputting a quantity for the item using the key pad;

computing a final price for the item based on the quantity, wherein the stored price is the final price.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing step comprises:

providing a receipt for the item as generated by the register, wherein the receipt lists the register-based price for the item; and

comparing the stored price to the register-based price for the item.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the comparing step comprises manually comparing the stored price to the register-based price for the item as listed on the receipt.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the comparing step comprises:

scanning the register-based price for the item as printed on the receipt using the OCR reader;

comparing the register-based price to the stored price within the price verification device.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing step comprises:

receiving the register-based price for the item within the price verification device from the register; and

comparing the stored price to the register-based price within the price verification device.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the register-based price is received from the register through a wireless connection between the register and the price verification device.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising docking the price verification device with the register to receive the register-based price within the price verification device.

9. A price verification device, comprising:

a barcode scanner for scanning a barcode corresponding to an item as printed on a label associated with the item;

an optical character recognition (OCR) reader for reading a price for the item printed on the label; and

a storage unit for storing the price for the item as read by the OCR reader for comparison to a register-based price for the item as determined by a register.

10. The device of claim 9, further comprising:

a key pad for inputting a quantity for the item using the key pad; and

a price calculation system for calculating a final price for the item based on the price read by the OCR reader and the quantity, wherein the final price is stored in the storage unit.

11. The device of claim 9, further comprising a comparison system for comparing the price stored in the storage unit to the register-based price for the item.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the OCR reader further reads the register-based price for the item from a receipt printed by the register, and wherein the comparison system compares the register-based price as read by the OCR reader to the stored price within the storage unit.

13. The device of claim 9, wherein the register-based price is received from the register through a wireless connection between the register and the price verification device.

14. The device of claim 9, wherein the register-based price is received from the register through a hardwired connection between the register and the price verification device.

15. The device of claim 9, wherein the barcode scanner and the OCR reader are implemented within a single component.

16. The device of claim 9, wherein the barcode scanner and the OCR reader are implemented as separate components.

17. A price verification device, comprising:

a barcode system for controlling a barcode scanner on the device that scans a barcode corresponding to an item from a label associated with the item;

an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system for controlling an OCR reader of the device that reads a price for the item from the label; and

a storage system for storing the price for comparison to a register-based price for the item as determined by a register.

18. The device of claim 17, further comprising:

a key pad for inputting a quantity for the item; and

a price calculation system for calculating a final price for the item based on the price read by the OCR reader and the quantity, wherein the final price is stored in the storage unit.

19. The device of claim 17, further comprising a comparison system for comparing the price stored in the storage unit to the register-based price for the item.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the OCR reader further reads the register-based price for the item from a receipt printed by the register, and wherein the comparison system compares the register-based price as read by the OCR reader to the stored price in the storage unit.

21. The device of claim 17, wherein the register-based price is received from the register through a wireless connection between the register and the price verification device.

22. The device of claim 17, wherein the register-based price is received from the register through a hardwired connection between the register and the price verification device.

23. A program product stored on a recordable medium for verifying a price of an item, which when executed, comprises:

program code for controlling a barcode scanner on the device that scans a barcode corresponding to an item from a label associated with the item;

program code for controlling an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) reader of the device that reads a price for the item from the label; and

program code for storing the price for comparison to a register-based price for the item as determined by a register.

24. The program product of claim 23, further comprising program code for calculating a final price for the item based on the price read by the OCR reader and an input quantity, wherein the final price is stored in the storage unit.

25. The program product of claim 23, further comprising program code for comparing the price stored in the storage unit to the register-based price for the item.

26. The program product of claim 25, wherein the OCR reader further reads the register-based price for the item from a receipt printed by the register, and wherein the program code for comparing compares the register-based price as read by the OCR reader to the stored price in the storage unit.

27. The program product of claim 23, wherein the register-based price is received from the register through a wireless connection between the register and the price verification device.

28. The program product of claim 23, wherein the register-based price is received from the register through a hardwired connection between the register and the price verification device.